

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data communication system comprising:

a) a first device for holding a control panel for providing a predetermined operation environment;

5        b) a second device for displaying the control panel; and

c) an operation device for operating the control panel displayed by said second device;

10        wherein said first device changes the control panel based on said operation device.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the control panel includes at least an image information corresponding to a predetermined operation.

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3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said first device changes the control panel based on at least one of the position, size and shape of an operation key provided in said operation device.

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4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said operation device executes remote control of the control panel displayed by said second device.

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5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said operation device and said second device execute wireless communication.

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6. A system according to claim 1, wherein said second device transmits an operation on the control panel to said first device.

5           7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said first device executes control so as to change the control panel displayed by said second device, according to an operation on the control panel.

10           8. A system according to claim 1, wherein said second device and said first device communicate through a digital interface.

15           9. A system according to claim 1, wherein said digital interface is based on the IEEE1394 standard.

10. A data communication apparatus comprising:

a) holding means for holding a control panel for providing a predetermined operation environment;

20           b) changing means for changing the control panel based on an operation device for operating the control panel displayed on an external device; and

c) transmission means for transmitting the control panel to said external device.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the control panel includes at least an image

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information corresponding to a predetermined operation.

12. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein  
said changing means changes the control panel based on  
5 at least one of a position, size and shape of an  
operation key provided in said operation device.

13. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein  
said operation device executes remote control of a  
10 control panel displayed by said second device.

14. An apparatus according to claim 10, further  
comprising reception means for receiving an operation  
on the control panel from said external device.  
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15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
control is executed so as to change the control panel  
displayed by said second device, according to an  
operation on the control panel.  
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16. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein  
said transmission means is a digital interface.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
25 said digital interface is based on the IEEE1394  
standard.

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18. A control method for controlling a data communication apparatus holding a control panel for providing a predetermined operation environment, the method comprising:

- 5           a) a changing step of changing the control panel, based on an operation device for operating the control panel displayed on an external device; and
- b) a transmission step of transmitting the control panel to said external device.

10           19. A method according to claim 18, wherein said control panel includes at least an image information corresponding to a predetermined operation.

15           20. A method according to claim 18, wherein said changing step changes the control panel based on at least one of a position, size and shape of an operation key provided in said operation device.

20           21. A method according to claim 18, wherein said operation device executes remote control of the control panel displayed by said second device.

25           22. A method according to claim 18, further comprising a reception step of receiving an operation on the control panel from said external device.

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23. A method according to claim 22, wherein control is executed so as to change the control panel displayed by said second device, according to an operation on the control panel.

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24. A method according to claim 18, wherein said digital interface is based on the IEEE1394 standard.

25. A data communication apparatus comprising:

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a) transmission means for transmitting information relating to an operation device for operating a control panel providing a predetermined operation environment to an external device holding the control panel; and

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b) display control means for displaying the control panel transmitted from said external device on a display device.

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26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said control panel is provided with at least an image information corresponding to a predetermined operation.

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27. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said information relating to said operation device indicates at least one of a position, size and shape of an operation key provided in said operation device.

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28. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said operation device executes remote control of the control panel.

5           29. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said transmission means transmits an operation on the control panel to said external device.

10           30. An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said display control means executes control so as to change the control panel, according to an operation on the control panel.

15           31. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said transmission means is a digital interface.

20           32. An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said digital interface is based on the IEEE1394 standard.

33. A control method for controlling a data communication apparatus comprising:

25           a) a transmission step of transmitting information relating to an operation device for operating a control panel providing a predetermined operation environment to an external device holding the control panel; and

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b) a display control step of displaying the control panel transmitted from said external device on a display device.

5           34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the control panel is provided with at least an image information corresponding to a predetermined operation.

10           35. A method according to claim 33, wherein said information relating to said operation device indicates at least one of a position, size and shape of an operation key provided in said operation device.

15           36. A method according to claim 33, wherein said operation device executes remote control of the control panel.

20           37. A method according to claim 33, wherein said transmission step transmits an operation on the control panel to said external device.

25           38. A method according to claim 37, wherein said display control step executes control so as to change the control panel, according to an operation on the control panel.

39. A method according to claim 33, wherein said transmission step is based on the IEEE1394 standard.

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